

BARNA SURVEY CLAIMS 31% OF CATHOLICS ARE BORN AGAIN

April 22, 1997 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org) -

Religious pollster George Barna claims that a new survey has found that 31% of Roman Catholics in the U.S.A. are "born again" Christians. The survey asked the following two questions:

* "I have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in my life today."

* "I believe that after I die I will go to heaven because I have confessed my sins and have accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior."

Those who reply positively to these questions were included in the "born again" category. Two years ago only 22% of Roman Catholics replied positively to these questions. In 1997 it was 31%.

This reflects the rapidly growing ecumenical-charismatic influence within the Roman Catholic Church. Biblical terminology is being used to hide Rome's false sacramental gospel. At an ecumenical conference in Indianapolis in 1990, which I attended with press credentials, I witnessed forums in which Roman Catholics were taught how to conduct door to door "evangelistic" visitations. They were taught to use biblical terminology such as "would you like to be born again?" and "would you like to be saved?" They were instructed in leading a seeker to pray a prayer to "receive Christ" or to rededicate himself to Christ or to reconfirm his baptismal vows. At the conclusion of the prayer, the Catholic "soul winner" was taught to lead the "new convert" in a prayer of thanksgiving to Mary! Catholics who are so instructed will tell you that they have been saved or that they have been born again, but they do not mean that they were lost and on their way to Hell and that they were given eternal life by repenting of their sin and false religion and placing their confidence in Jesus Christ. They mean, rather, that they had an unusual spiritual experience at some point, usually in a charismatic context. They still trust their infant baptism. They still do not believe they have eternal security in Christ. They still have no confidence in their salvation. They still believe the sacraments are a means of grace and are necessary to maintain and perfect their salvation. They still believe Rome's blasphemous doctrines about Mary. Friends, this is not biblical salvation, and it is not loving, and it is not kind, and it is not Christian to let such people think they are right with God.